GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1577
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
DWINDLING POPULATION IN RHINOS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the dwindling population of rhinos in Kaziranga National Park;

(b) the number of rhinos died as a result of flood in that Park; and

(c) the efforts made/being made to save the rhinos from untimely and unnatural death?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the information received from the State Government,the population of rhinoceros in Kaziranga National Park, Assam is not dwindling.

(b) The number of rhinoceros died as a result of flood in Kaziranga National Park during the last five years is as below:

Year	Number of rhinoceros died in flood
2004	11
2005	0
2006	0
2007	3
2008	2

(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife including rhinoceros, inter alia, include the following:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation.Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of protection.

3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. − Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant to State/UT Governments for the conservation and protection of wildlife including rhinoceros and its habitats.

5. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas is carried out in coordination with other law enforcement agencies for the conservation of rhinoceros.

6. Nature awareness campaigns for the public are conducted regularly.

7. Ecodevelopment activities are initiated in fringe villages to solicit people`s participation in conservation.

8. Vaccination programmes are carried out among the cattle of the fringe villages of Kaziranga National Park for preventing epidemic diseases in rhinoceros.

9. Earthen platforms are raised in Kaziranga National Park to provide adequate shelter to animals during flood.

10. Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation has been established at Panbari near Bokakhat, Assam in 2001.

11. Special Rescue Teams are put to service during flood season to save stranded animals.